(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some pilot projects have been undertaken by Department of Information Technology to set up Telemedicine facilities in different parts of the country. Under the pilot project Cancer/NET in Kerala about 4,207 cancer patients and under the Telemedicine Project on the Development of Telemedicine for Tropical Diseases in West Bengal about 1000 patients have undergone teleconsultation. As of now 34 Remote/District/Medical College/Mobile hospitals are connected to 12 super speciality hospitals located in major cities. The Department of Space have also taken up telemedicine pilot project as a proof of concept technology demonstration in various States of India like Jammu and Kashmir, Orissa, North Eastern Region, Lakshadweep Islands, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Kerala, Karnataka etc. The expansion of the network is to be addressed by the respective State Governments; the Central Government will provide necessary assistance to those State Governments towards establishing operational network for meeting the need of the people in remote areas.

Super speciality centre at AIIMS

1301. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AIIMS proposes to expand its Super speciality centre to facilitate intake of more patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of AIIMS branches which have been set up or are proposed to be set up in different parts of the country; and

(d) the time-frame within which the branch set up at Bhubaneswar would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are proposals to expand following super speciality areas at the Institute to facilitate intake of more patients:-

(i) C.N. Tower

(ii) Centre for Dental Education & Research

(iii) Jai Prakash Apex Trauma Centre

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal to set up branches of AIIMS in the different parts of the country. However, under "Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna" this Ministry has decided in principle to set up super speciality hospitals in six different States on the pattern of AIIMS, New Delhi, as under:

(i) Patna (Bihar)

(ii) Bhubaneswar (Orissa)

(iii) Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)

(iv) Jodhpur (Rajasthan)

(v) Raipur (Chhattisgarh)

(vi) Rishikesh (Uttaranchal)

These hospitals including the one at Bhubaneswar are expected to be completed within three years.

Inhaler for Asthama Patients

1302. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asthalin Inhaler is treated to be under the Category of Asthalin reliever;

(b) if so, why Authorised Medical Attendants appointed by Government cannot prescribe it and a general physician of CGHS can prescribe it; and

(c) the details of any plans to include Asthalin Inhaler in the list of inexpensive drugs as it is life saving and not so expensive?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the basic drug is included in schedule II Appendix XVI of Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944 which illustrates the